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FILE ONLY

CARTER CALLS CIA MANUAL AN EMBARRASSMENT
BY JOE PARHAM
ATHENS, GA.

Former President Jimmy Carter said Friday a CIA booklet instructing Nicaraguan rebels in guerrilla warfare is embarrassing to the United States because "it makes the Sandinistas heroes and it makes us villains."

"This is very embarrassing to President Reagan," Carter told students during a town meeting on the University of Georgia campus. "This is not proper and it has brought embarrassment. It is not a benefit for our country."

"It is counterproductive because it makes the Sandinistas heroes and it makes us villains," Carter said.

He said the same standards of legality and morality "should apply to the CIA acting in a clandestine, or secret, fashion as it does to other public officials in this country."

The former president said there can be no covert operations by the CIA unless approved by the president.

The CIA manual, titled "Psychological Operations in Guerrilla Warfare," offers instructions on how to "neutralize" opponents. It also instructs the Contras fighting to overthrow the Sandinista government that if a civilian is killed they should say the person was a government informer.

The manual, revealed just days before Reagan and Democratic challenger Walter Mondale are scheduled to debate on foreign policy, has caused a political tempest.

Rep. Thomas P. O'Neill, speaker of the House of Representatives, said the primer violates a congressional ban on aid for those trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan government. He called for Reagan to fire CIA Director William Casey.

"I want him to get out. I think it's a disgraceful situation," O'Neill said. "I believe Casey ought to be out forthwith and if he isn't it shows the president condones the actions of Mr. Casey."

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Reagan ordered the CIA to do an internal investigation of the booklet to determine "the possibility of improper conduct," but O'Neill said it was likely to be a "whitewash."

In a 40-minute question-and-answer session with students, Carter also criticized Reagan's handling of the ongoing conflict in Lebanon, the United States' \$180 billion deficit and a lack of improved public education in this country.

Carter also blasted Reagan for what he called a lack of negotiations on any trouble spot in the world.

"There are no negotiations going on now in any part of the world that involves the president or the secretary of state," Carter said.

He assailed Reagan's foreign policy, saying it is "an effort to substitute foil diplomacy for negotiations, a show of military strength. It's counterproductive."

Carter said the lack of negotiations was an "inherent difference" in his administration and that of Reagan.

The 39th president said Reagan's handling of foreign matters "has profoundly transformed foreign policy in this country because the rest of the world doesn't think anymore that the United States is the champion defender of human rights. It grieves me deeply."

Carter said the American Embassy in Lebanon has been under repeated attack "because we have so seriously mishandled the situation in Lebanon."

He said the United States should not have injected itself into what was essentially a civil war.

"The inclinations of the Lebanese to punish Americans was inevitable," Carter said. "We had repeated warnings from those people that they would seek retributions against our people."

Following a recent bomb attack on the American embassy in Lebanon, Reagan claimed part of the reason for the successful attack was the past administration had undermined this country's intelligence apparatus.

"There's a consistency about his efforts to avoid responsibility by blaming things on me primarily, on Congress, on other nations or Ford or Nixon or everybody else," Carter said.